

FINAL PROJECT RUBRIC

Submission deadline: Wednesday, May 13th by 11:59:00pm

- ➔ Final projects submitted by a single student or a songwriting pair (2 students).
- ➔ Absolutely no late submissions will be accepted.

Submission file format: PDF score (1-2 pages)

- ➔ No other formats will be accepted, e.g. docx, odt, ppt, etc.
- ➔ **Optional:** .mp3 of your own recording.

Score format: grand staff with melody on treble clef and bass line on bass clef.

- ➔ Scores may be typeset with a notation software or handwritten.
- ➔ **Tip:** Staff paper can be downloaded at blanksheetpaper.net.
- ➔ Chord symbols placed above treble clef.
- ➔ Roman numerals placed below bass clef.
- ➔ **Optional:** Lyrics for vocal melody placed between treble and bass staves.
- ➔ **Optional:** Drum staff and other staves for important musical lines.

Song structure: verse-chorus song consisting of 28-52 bars.

1. **Intro** (optional): 2-4 bars.
2. **Verse 1:** 4 bars.
3. **Verse 2:** 4 bars.
4. **Chorus:** 4 bars. (If chorus is repeated, 8 bars.)
5. **Verse 3:** 4 bars.
6. **Chorus:** 4 bars. (If chorus is repeated, 8 bars.)
7. **Bridge:** 4-8 bars.
8. **Chorus:** 4 bars. (If chorus is repeated, 8 bars.)
9. **Outro** (optional): 2-4 bars.

Writing tips: suggestions to make composing easier.

Chord progressions:

- ➔ **Tip 1:** Chord progressions often feature 1 chord change per bar.
- ➔ **Tip 2:** Feel free to incorporate one of the standard chord progressions discussed in class into your verses, choruses, or bridge.
- ➔ **Tip 3:** Intro and Outro often use the chord progression of either verse or chorus, without a melody or with fragments of the melody.
- ➔ **Tip 4:** Chord progression usually stays the same from verse to verse and from chorus to chorus, but it may differ (or not) from verse to chorus.
- ➔ **Tip 5:** Chord progression must change in the bridge.

Melody, Bass Line, and Roman Numerals:

- ➔ **Tip 1:** Melody tends to be lower and have shorter rhythms in the verse, and be higher and have slower rhythms in the chorus.
- ➔ **Tip 2:** Melody notes need to emphasize the three or four notes that belong to the chord playing in that bar.
- ➔ **Tip 3:** Figure out the chord progression first, then write the bass line using mostly or even exclusively the roots of the chords.
- ➔ **Tip 4:** Notes in the bass line change as often as chords do, so bass lines may be as simple as sequence of whole notes.
- ➔ **Tip 5:** Write the Roman numerals only after writing all chord symbols and the bass line.
- ➔ **Tip 6:** If you use a non-diatonic chord and do not know how to express it with a Roman numeral, ask a tutor for help.

Grade: ____/500

____/100: Compliance with the given song structure.

____/100: Proper use of chord progressions.

____/100: Sensible bass line and appropriate labeling with Roman numerals.

____/100: Sensible melody with proper handling of non-chord tones.

____/100: Originality and creativity.

Comments:

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